

The William Parsil Jr. House
N.E. cor. Parsonage Hill & White Oak Ridge Roads
Millburn Township, Essex County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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The William Parsil Jr. House
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Owners: Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. DeGroot
3 Baltusrol Road
Summit, New Jersey

Date of Erection: Circa 1825-1828

Architect: Unknown

Builder: William Parsil Jr. (dec'd. 1850)

Present Condition: Good (Front porch not original)

Number of Stories: Two and one-half, above cellar

Materials of Construction:

Foundation - stone masonry
Exterior walls - timber frame, clapboarded
Interior walls - lath and plaster on studding
Chimney - brick, built into inside of west
gables end wall
Roof - gable, having modern asbestos shingles

Historical Data:

Across White Oak Ridge Road from the house here considered, in a small private burial plot, are still found the gravestones of Capt. Thomas Parcel who died 4 July 1778, aged 34 years, of his widow Lois (who survived him and her second husband, John Cowperthwait) who died 25 June 1822 aged 74-11-18, and of two infant daughters.

This Capt. Thomas Parcel of Newark Township, Essex County, born in 1740 (whose house still stands, northeast of the one here considered) by his will of 12 June 1778, proved 17 July in same year, devised to his wife Lois the use of a third of the farm excepting 60 acres of the north end which he divided and devised to his brothers Swain, Anthony, and Parker Parcel, at age 21 years. To his children Thomas,

William, and Eusebe Parcel, minors, he devised each a third of the real and personal estate, and appoint as guardians the executors, viz., his wife Lois and his friends John Stites and Walter Smith. (a)

Thomas Parsil, (as he wrote the name) eldest son and devisee abovenamed, was the next owner of the house. On 19 February 1798, he as Thomas Parsil of Newark Twp., with wife Phebe, mortgaged to Jonathan Brown Jr. of Ulster County, New York, for 22 pounds, two-thirds of "all that certain messuage house and farm" of 95 acres in Newark Township, "whereon he now lives", bounded north by lands of Mathias Denman and Jonas Wade, west by the public road and the lands of Stephen Denman, Isaac and Benjamin Moorehouse, south by those of Samuel Bayley, and east by those of Smith and Enos Parcel. This mortgage was cancelled 5 November 1803.

By a deed of 29 Jan. 1828, this Thomas Parsil of Springfield Township, (formerly part of Newark) conveyed to William Parcel Jr. of same place, for \$1000, the 50 acre "homestead farm of the said Thomas Parcel", describing its bounds as beginning at Canoe Brook Bridge in the road from Col. Stephen Baldwin's to Springfield, thence easterly along that road to the southwest corner of Samuel Bailey's land, thence northeasterly along his land+that of Aaron Ross to Abraham Bailey's land, thence northwesterly along his land to the road from the house of Isaac Reeves to Chatham at the southeast corner of Moses Ward's line, thence along his line westerly to Canoe Brook and down the same to the said bridge, and conveying "all and singular the houses, buildings", etc.

(a) N.J. Archives 34-376, Abstracts of Wills

Likewise, by deed of 1st February 1828 the same Thomas Parsil, with his wife Phebe, of Springfield Township, Essex County, conveyed to William Parsil, Junr. of same place, for \$5.00, a 1.09 acre corner lot there (on which stands the house here considered) whose boundary lines began in the middle of the road through Springfield parsonage woodland past the family burying ground of said Thomas Parsel to Stephen Baldwin's (now White Oak Ridge Road), thence along the middle of the aforesaid road toward Stephen Baldwin's 4 chains, thence along the line of said Thomas Parsel, across his orchard, 2.94 chains to a stake in the orchard, thence along his line 4 chains to the middle of the road "leading past the said Thomas Parsil's dwelling house* and the aforesaid burying ground towards John Drew's", thence along the middle of the last mentioned road 2.50 chains to the beginning corner, together with "all and singular the houses, buildings", etc. This small plot had been included however, in the bounds of the 50 acre farm already conveyed to this grantee by the deed dated three days previous, as above cited.

But by deed of 21 November 1828, said William Parsil, Junr., of Springfield Township, with wife Mahetable conveyed back to Thomas Parsil of same place for \$1,000 the 50 acre farm acquired from the latter on 28 February previous as above cited, mentioning "the old mansion house on said farm", but reserving the 1.09 acre lot "on which William Parsil's house is situate and specially reserved for his own use and benefit".

This William Parsil, Jr., who had built that newer house (as its details indicate its period) probably within three years before he acquired title to the lot in 1828 as above, died there in Springfield Township between 18 September and 4 October 1850, the dates of signing and of probate of his will, devising to his wife Betty Parsil during her widowhood the use of his real and personal property, specifying this house and its one acre lot, and afterward to his nephew Aaron O.

*That earlier house still stands, northeast of the one here considered, and is owned by the Century Corporation

Denman. Testator directs the executors, Henry P. Day and William Vail of Brooklyn, N.Y., to erect a stone wall around "the graveyard in front of my house" at a cost of not more than \$500 to the estate, and bequeathed \$400 to the "Presbyterian Church of Chatham Village of which I am a member".

Aaron O. Denman of Millburn Township (set off from Springfield Township, and included the house and lot here considered) the nephew and devisee of William Parsil Jr., abovenamed, died between 2 September 1876 and 27 November 1877, the dates of signing and or proving of his will in which he devised this house and lot to his son, George Denman. The last named being also of Millburn and probably occupying the house, by deed of 3 October 1892, conveyed the same 1.09 acre lot and its house to Isaac H. DeGroot of the same place. DeGroot and wife Mary, of Millburn Township, conveyed by deed of 21 July 1930 to Edward Charles Erb of West Livingston of West Livingston a strip 50 feet wide off the north end of the lot. Mary DeGroot died 2 January 1934, survived by her husband and son Charles H., and the last named, of 3 Baltusrol Road, Summit, New Jersey, is the present owner, 1939, at time of our survey of the house.

Bibliography:

A search of title in Land and Probate records of Essex County by Joseph Pitocco, H.A.B.S. abstractor

Levi D. Cook
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.
District Officer